

business groups, labor unions, youth and women's clubs, schools, and other interested groups, to participate in this observance. I urge the Department of Agriculture, land-grant educational institutions, and all appropriate organizations and Government officials to mark the significance of National Farm-City Week with special events and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-seventh.



PROCLAMATION 4172

National Family Week

By the President of the United States of America

November 18, 1972

A Proclamation

As prospects brighten for a lasting peace in the world, we can hope to approach more closely the age-old ideal of a single, harmonious family of man.

As we work toward that great goal, however, we must never forget that our starting point—the center of our affections and the wellspring of our self-renewal—must be the basic family circle. Parent and child, husband and wife, brother and sister, all truly mean “home” to every human being.

No institution can ever take the family's place in giving meaning to human life and a stable structure to society; indeed, as a wise philosopher observed thousands of years ago, “the root of the state is in the family.” The pressures of our modern age make this a time of challenge for families in America, but every community has its inspiring examples of families which have risen to the demand and made the time of challenge a time of glory.

Our long-cherished American observances of Mother's Day and Father's Day are fittingly complemented by this new idea of a National Family Week, which this year will coincide with the Thanksgiving holiday—a time when families traditionally reunite, and when the family unit itself should stand high on that list of blessings for which we offer our thanks to God.

86 Stat. 757.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, in consonance with House Joint Resolution 135, do hereby proclaim the week beginning Sunday, November 19, 1972, as National Family Week. I invite the Governors of the several States, the chief officials of local governments, and all the people of the United States to mark this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-seventh.



PROCLAMATION 4173

Bill of Rights Day and Human Rights Day and Week

December 9, 1972

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The ink was barely dry on the Constitution of the United States of America in the autumn of 1787 when leading patriots and statesmen of the young Republic took up the cry for amendments affording written guarantees of basic human freedoms under the proposed national government. "A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth . . ." Thomas Jefferson wrote, "and what no just government should refuse or rest on inference."

The idea that every individual was endowed by his Creator with rights no sovereign or majority could take away was thought dangerous and radical over much of the globe in those days, but it ran deep in the American grain even then. The very first Congress proposed a Bill of Rights, and by 1791 its proposals had become the first ten amendments to our Constitution.

Since that time, exactly as James Madison predicted to Jefferson that they would do, "the political truths declared in that solemn manner (have acquired) by degrees the character of fundamental maxims of free government." They have inspired our own Nation's accelerating efforts to assure every American full equality and dignity before the

USC prec. title
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